

I care about animals, including wildlife, and I vote.

Please accept this public hearing testimony for the following 5 bills, and a request to bring up HB 5615 (which would allow towns to ban trapping):

1) OPPOSE SB 522 -- would allow bear hunting, which I strongly oppose. Learning how to remove attractants (e.g., accessible garbage, pet food left outside) and, if necessary, how to haze and exclusion strategies, are the humane, simple, effective, and science-based solutions to conflicts with wildlife. An outrageous claim being made by proponents is that population size will double every few years, but this is not true: bears are a very slow-to-reproduce species, and in addition, have many natural checks to their population size, including the phenomenon of delayed implantation. Slow reproduction rates make bear populations susceptible to overhunting. We must learn from recent experiences in other states, such as New Jersey where even mothers and cubs were recklessly killed, or Florida, where the state agency had to stop the hunt after one year because too many bears were killed. With only around 700 bears in the entire state of Connecticut, we need to protect our bears from a similar hunting frenzy, and preserve these bears for future generations.

2) OPPOSE HB 5499 -- would expand Sunday hunting to allow use of shotguns, rifles, and muzzleloaders. I want a day to enjoy the woods in peace for myself and my companion animals, and not worry about knowing that animals are suffering, or coming across a suffering animal. This bill does nothing to reduce the incidence of Lyme disease, and will not reduce the deer population in any sustainable way, as the population will bounce back. I disagreed with allowing bow hunting on Sundays, and this is an outrageous expansion that is not fair to the overwhelming majority of non-consumptive users (e.g., hikers, birders, mountain bikers).

As an animal lover and I appreciate the sanctity of life, thats why i.opposed HB 5498, SB 522.

Thank you for your commitment on the sanctity of life.

Tegards,

Ms. Athena Coroneos

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone